

Proclamation 6135 of May 17, 1990

National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week, 1990

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation's transportation system provides a vital link between different communities and industries. Facilitating the movement of people, goods, and services, its safety and efficiency are essential to our economic productivity and national security.

In peacetime and in times of crisis, our Nation's transportation system serves as a pillar of our national defense. In fact, the civil transportation system provides some 85 percent of Department of Defense transportation needs for the mobilization of military forces. It also plays a vital role in the movement of people and supplies following natural disasters and other nonmilitary emergencies.

The successful operation of this important system depends upon a sound infrastructure: safe and efficient roads, bridges, airports, seaports, railroad tracks, and mass transit facilities. Thus, the National Transportation Policy issued by the Department of Transportation in March includes plans for improving the Nation's transportation infrastructure.

Efforts to strengthen America's transportation infrastructure will have many immediate and long-term benefits for the United States. They will not only help to create jobs while enhancing the safety and convenience of our roads, air routes, and waterways, but also increase our competitive edge in the global market. During an age when our economy and national security can be affected by events around the world, these efforts assume additional urgency and importance.

The United States currently boasts the best transportation system in the world. If it is to remain so, we must pool the energy and resources of both the public and private sectors. We must restructure our transportation system to give State and local governments the tools they need to address critical transportation requirements close to home. We must also harness the creativity and determination of transportation officials, lawmakers, business and community leaders, and concerned citizens in making U.S. transportation safer. Eliminating the dangers posed by the consumption of alcohol and drugs must continue to be a priority.

Since the age of Fulton's steamboat and the Wright Brothers' success at Kitty Hawk, we have seen extraordinary progress in the field of transportation. The need for faster, safer, and more reliable transportation has been the mother of many inventions, from the automobile and jet engine to the swift-moving commuter train. Today, acknowledging its vital role in the Nation's economic development and defense, we remain firmly committed to progress in transportation technology. We also gratefully recognize those dedicated and hardworking men and women—from the highway engineer to the air traffic controller—who serve the travelling public.

In recognition of the importance of transportation and of the millions of Americans who serve and supply our transportation needs, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957 (36 U.S.C. 160), has requested that the third Friday in May of each year be designated as "National Defense Transportation Day" and, by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962 (36 U.S.C. 166), that the week in which that Friday falls be proclaimed "National Transportation Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 18, 1990, as National Defense Transportation Day and the week of May 13 through May 19, 1990, as National Transportation Week. I urge the people of the United States to observe these occasions with appropriate ceremonies that will give full recognition to the individuals and organizations that build, maintain, and safeguard our country's transportation system.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17 day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6136 of May 17, 1990

National Trauma Awareness Month, 1990

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Because all of us are potential trauma victims, it is fitting that we pause to reflect upon the causes of traumatic injuries, their impact, and how to prevent them.

Each year, traumatic injury claims the lives of at least 150,000 Americans. Many thousands more are severely or permanently disabled.

Young Americans are particularly at high risk. Traumatic injuries kill six times as many children as cancer, the next most common cause of death in children. Four out of five deaths among teenagers and young adults are caused by traumatic injuries—injuries most often suffered in motor vehicle collisions.

Even among our older citizens, traumatic injury continues to be a major public health problem. The death rate due to falls among persons 75 years or older is nearly 12 times the rate in the general population.

At any age, death or disability from traumatic injury is tragic and almost always preventable. The vast majority of traumatic injuries result from hazards that can be reduced if we use our common sense and take advantage of current knowledge about how traumatic injuries occur. All Americans should learn more about the circumstances and behaviors that lead to traumatic injuries and how they can be avoided.

Every citizen should also learn more about the role of trauma care and rehabilitation in reducing deaths and disability associated with traumatic injury. Effective treatment begins with ambulance and rescue